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AMERICAN BUSINESS LAW. By Hon. A. B. Frey. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1920. pp. xxv, 514.

Judge Frey's book is a comprehensive statement of the law, valuable to the law student and to the layman alike. It is a clear and direct statement of the fundamental legal principles underlying business transactions, carefully and systematically arranged and outlined, and abundantly illustrated with simple and comprehensive examples. A list of references and of review questions appears at the end of each chapter.

The well-arranged outlines at the beginning of each chapter, coupled with the writer's clearness and directness of expression, render this work particularly valuable to the student enrolled in a law school using the case-book method of instruction. It will afford a means of ready review and should enable the student to bring together the threads so easily lost in the course of the minute discussion of cases.

The abundance of illustrative matter and the definition and explanation of technical terms in footnotes will be most helpful to the lay reader. The writer has fortunately avoided the too concise statement of the law so often found in works of this type, which tends to induce the belief that law is but a body of complex rules and that justice depends upon being fortunate enough to have a case, the facts of which fall within the meaning of one of the rules.

Supplemented by excerpts from the local law, where necessary, this should be an excellent textbook for courses in commercial law such as are given for non-professional students in most universities.

M. W. Dobrzensky.

BUSINESS LAW. By Alfred W. Bays. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1920. pp. ix, 311.

The subtitle of this volume is "An Elementary Treatise" and in his preface the author states that it is intended "for use in schools and for readers in general who desire a brief exposition of the general principles of the law governing business transactions." For the general reader this work will be less valuable than Judge Frey's "American Business Law," but it should prove to be more useful as a textbook in schools. Principles, for the most part, are so concisely stated as to require elaboration in the classroom. Questions and problems appear at the end of each chapter and the text is explained by numerous examples.

M. W. Dobrzensky.

THE LAW OF AUTOMOBILES. By Xenophon P. Huddy. 5th ed. by Arthur F. Curtis. Matthew Bender and Company, Albany, New York, 1919. pp. lxxxv, 1196.

A fifth edition of this work and its enlargement to twice the size of the fourth edition evince the fact of the predominant

importance of the subject. The larger part of damage suits arises out of alleged negligence in the handling of this relatively new vehicle. The law pertaining to automobiles therefore deserves separate treatment. The present edition confirms our judgment of the fourth edition. (6 California Law Review, 88.) The work is ably and thoroughly done.

Wm. Carey Jones.

AMERICAN LAW OF CHARTER PARTIES AND OCEAN BILLS OF LADING. By Wharton Poor of the New York Bar. Matthew Bender & Company, Albany, N. Y., 1920. pp., text, 148; Appendix of Statutes and Forms, 80.

The bar and judiciary of the United States are badly in need of a comprehensive treatise upon the American law of carriage of goods by sea, corresponding with the excellent works on that branch of English law by Carver, Scrutton, and MacLachlan, and of French law by Lyon-Caen and Donjon. We are forced to seek our authorities in digests and encyclopedias, with their well-known procrustean methods. Our need has increased of late, and Mr. Poor's work shows signs of having been rushed into the breach. It is to be regretted that it by no means fills it. True, the book purports to cover merely the American law of charter parties and ocean bills of lading, but it is really only an essay on certain topics selected from these subjects. Mr. Poor discusses clause by clause the familiar forms of time charter, rate charter, the Harter Act, and an uncomplicated form of ocean bill of lading. To this extent the work is clearly and fairly thoroughly done, but there is no discussion of fundamental principles and nothing to assist the inquirer whose question is not stereotyped. The corpus of American law on the subject is certainly as great as the British. Mr. Poor's work has only 148 pages of text; Scrutton, ninth edition, covering the same field of British law, has 409. The American "Carver" is yet to come.

A. T. Wright.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF INHERITANCE TAXATION. Second Edition. By Lafayette B. Gleason, Attorney for State Comptroller for New York City, and Alexander Otis of the New York City Bar. Matthew Bender & Co., New York, 1919. pp. lxvii, 1138.

In reviewing the first edition of this book in November, 1918, it was said: "This work is not a learned exploration into the sources and nature of law. It is hot from the conflict in the courts and legislatures of today, a five o'clock edition. In 1919 there will be so much amendment and so many new decisions that a later edition will doubtless be required." This was a safe prophecy. A new Federal statute was passed in 1919 and twenty-five out of fifty jurisdictions have materially amended their statutes in the two years. New topics have been added in this edition, notably the effect of inheritance tax laws on life insurance. The authors call attention to the doubtful constitutionality of the inno-